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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication will in their articles, return, they will be all cases sent stamps for that purpose.

Congressman Bromwell Has Written to the Hon. Thomas H. Reed.

The preference of this or that member of the Fifty-sixth House for this or that candidate for Speaker is usually fashioned to fit some good reason, political, sectional or personal, and is accordingly entitled to respectful consideration. That is not true of the Hon. JACOB H. BROMWELL's suggestion for the reorganization of the House.

Mr. BROMWELL is the Republican Congressman from the Second District of Ohio. He represents part of Cincinnati and some of its suburban townships. He has communicated his plan to the country through the newspapers and to the Hon. THOMAS H. REED by letter. It is this:

"I have written Speaker REED, and will talk with him when he returns, advising him to accept the unanimous election of the Republicans of the House of Representatives. My plan is that the House shall accept the Speaker, appoint the committee according to its untrammelled judgment, start the machinery of legislation, and then resign the Speakership about the first of January, covered with the honors of the speaker of the House of Congress, enjoying the voluntary retirement of the first and only man to resign the high office of Speaker of the National House of Representatives. If Mr. REED will do this, he will make himself the more conspicuous, and render the country a splendid service."

Mr. REED possesses a sense of humor. When Mr. BROMWELL's letter catches up with him in his travels he is likely to experience a few minutes of genuine enjoyment of the purely American sort that does not proceed from anything mentioned by BAEDEKER.

The abjectness of the Cincinnati member's appeal, the assumption that, while the Fifty-sixth House may include some statesmen capable of banging the desk with the gavel and counting quorums, it must depend upon Mr. REED and Mr. REED alone to make the committee, and start the wheels of legislation, and the proposal that the House shall elect a Speaker with the understanding that he is to do the most difficult part of his successor's work and then resign, "covered with the honors of the eulogies of both Houses," are altogether novel and delightful.

We have looked up the Hon. JACOB H. BROMWELL's age in the books of reference. To our surprise we find that that gentleman is fifty-two years old this May—fifty-two years, not fifty-two months.

Railways Built and Building in China.

The latest demand for a railway concession made by the Russian Ambassador at Peking renders it worth while to examine the whole subject of Chinese railways, including those merely projected, as well as those under construction. To that end, we avail ourselves of the exhaustive data collected by Lord CHARLES BERSFORD and published in his just-published book, "The Break-Up of China."

According to the cable report, the Russian Ambassador demanded a concession for a line from Peking to some point unmentioned on the Trans-Siberian Railway. It has been suggested that Mukden would be the Russian terminus of the contemplated line, but this is improbable, for Mukden lies on the branch road, already surveyed, and under process of construction, which is to connect Tientsin and Port Arthur with the Trans-Siberian Railway; and a line from Mukden to Peking would run practically parallel to the Tientsin Railway, which is now in course of extension to Newchwang. There is another way of reaching Peking from the Trans-Siberian Railway, to which those interested in the Tientsin line could not reasonably object. We refer to the trade route from Peking to Khabarovsk, which touches the Siberian trunk lines at a point near Irkutsk. A railway line following this route would run many hundreds of miles to the westward of the Tientsin road, and after traversing a part of Mongolia which supplies horses to the whole of China, and is also a wool-growing region, would enter the Chinese capital from the northwest. According to the latest advice from Peking the concession requested by the Russian Ambassador was refused, but, as it is still pressed, we may assume that it will be granted ultimately, unless inflexible opposition is offered by the British Foreign Office.

A glance at Lord CHARLES BERSFORD's map, which shows the railways built, building or surveyed in the Middle Kingdom, will indicate why Russia desires to reach Peking from her Trans-Siberian Railway by a line of her own. At present she has under rapid construction a branch which leaves the main line somewhat to the northwest of Peking, and then passes southwest of it through Kwantung to Tientsin, which is expected to connect with the extension of the Tientsin Railway, which is already completed to Shanhai-kwan, and is being rapidly pushed toward Newchwang. The gauge of this road, as of all railways to be built in China, is 4 feet 8½ inches, whereas the Russian-Manchurian Railway, to which we have just referred, has a gauge of 5 feet. The Shanhai-kwan road is under Chinese control, protection and administration, and under the recent agreement between Russia and Great Britain must always remain so, although a British corporation advanced the money needed for constructing it. Under the circumstances, we can see why the Russian Government desires to reach Peking by a railway of its own, having the same gauge as the Siberian trunk line.

Outside of the line, 300 miles in length, from Peking through Tientsin to Shanhai-kwan, which is known as the Imperial Chinese Railway, and which, under the name of the Shanhai-kwan-Newchwang Railway, is expected to be opened this summer as far as Kinchow, the only other iron road actually built in the Middle Kingdom is the Shanghai-Woosung Railway, which has a double track, but is only about seventeen miles long. Of lines, therefore, now in operation, there are only 317 miles in all China, to which the Chinese line to Newchwang, when completed, will add 170 miles, and the Russian line now building in Manchuria will add 1,400 miles. The only other line which is actually under construction is the

Lu-Han road, which runs from Peking to Hankow, passing through the provinces of Chihli, Honan and Hupeh. This will have to be a factor of 700 miles. Lord CHARLES BERSFORD found work progressing with considerable activity on this line near the northern end, but at the southern terminus work had been suspended, although there were about twelve miles of embankment ready for the metals. The concession for this road, although during the best part of its course it cuts the basin of the Yangtze-Kiang, which is England's sphere of influence, was secured by a syndicate of Belgian and French financiers; but the reversion of the concession belongs to Americans in the event of a failure to raise the \$25,000,000 subscribed on the part of the Franco-Belgian syndicate. There seems to be some doubt as to whether this road will prove as profitable as the rival line projected from Tientsin to Chinkiang, near the mouth of the Yangtze. The last-named line, which is Anglo-German, is about 600 miles in length. Another projected railway, the Hankow-Canton line, runs from the Yangtze to a junction with the Kowloon-Canton Railway at the last-named city. This is an Anglo-American concession, and is pronounced by Lord CHARLES to be extremely valuable, as it passes through some of the richest provinces in the Middle Kingdom. The whole line is 700 miles long, of which 800 originally belonged to an American syndicate.

In the southern provinces of Kwangsi and Kwangtung the French have surveyed a line running from Pakhoi, the seaport to Nanning, and thence, by the way of Langson, to Hanoi in Tonquin, but in the mercantile communities of the South Lord CHARLES BERSFORD heard the belief expressed that no part of this line would be built with French capital from the fear that it would develop British trade. The Shanghai-Nanking line is a British railway projected to connect Nanking with the coast. The contract for construction has been signed, and part of the route has been surveyed. A right has also been granted to a British firm to build a branch 270 miles long from the Shanghai-Nanking Railway to Shingyang in Honan, and also a railway which, when constructed, should be very profitable, namely, from Soochow, by way of Hangchow, to Ningpo.

From the inquiries made by Lord CHARLES BERSFORD, he arrived at the conclusion that most of the lines projected in the Middle Kingdom could be made to pay, provided they were not overburdened by initial extravagance. The mode of construction recommended is one midway between the costly method followed in Europe and the rough, light structures used on some pioneer lines in the United States. Tariffs must be kept low, or advantage will not be taken of the railways for the use of traffic, and, if the fares are not low, the Chinese will prefer to walk.

The National Organization Committee of the Irreconcilable Populists took the trouble to have a meeting at Kansas City last week and to write an address to "The Populists of the Nation." The writers of the address may be called Middle-of-the-Road Populists. They would not endorse the Barker and Donnelly Populist ticket which was nominated at Cincinnati last year. The ordinary middle-of-the-road is not exact enough for them. They stand in the middle of a half's point in the infinitesimal mathematical middle of the road. Fusion they regard as the unendurable. WEAVER, BAKES and LANTIER, DONNELLY, who might seem untainted of fusion and tolerably "straight," were nominated without the use of the referendum, and are of doubtful authenticity in consequence.

The Middleers may not be numerous, but they have the root of the matter in them. The fact is that the Fusionists, who are doleful enough in all conscience, are too gay for the more sombre mind of the Middleers. The writers of the address say that they are willing to "remain in good fellowship with the Fusion brethren," provided that the latter will "stand squarely on the original principles" of the party as laid down in the Omaha platform.

Turn away for a moment from money-making, from enjoyment of the good times, and read a bit of that Omaha platform.

"We, most in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin; corruption dominates the ballot box, the Legislatures, the Congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized. . . . The newspapers are largely subsidized or muzzled, public opinion silenced, business prostrated, our homes covered with mortgage, labor impoverished and the land concentrating in the hands of capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for the purpose of improving their lot by collective action; imported pauper labor beats down their wages; hiring standing army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down, and they are perishing from disease and starvation. The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly sold to the oppressor. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes—tramps and millionaires."

To these hopeful sentiments of the uncorrupted Populists of 1892 the Middleers would return. Fusion is altogether too cheerful for them.

Obstacles in the Way of Uniform Divorce Legislation.

The demand for uniformity in the divorce laws of the States, which has been provoked by a recent scandalous occurrence, simply revives an old discussion.

A divorce reform league, with headquarters at Boston, has been agitating the question for many years, and in one form or another the whole subject of divorce has come up in the assemblies and conventions of different Churches, without any settlement which changes the old practice having been reached. A correspondent writing to THE SUN from Boston thinks that "in time" the Church of Rome will sanction divorce for adultery, or abandon its old position and get on the Episcopal ground, but as that Church regards marriage as a sacrament it is compelled to adhere to its prohibition of divorce for any cause as an obligation of unchangeable religious principle.

The methodical movement to bring about uniformity in the legislation of the States on this subject, which was also begun several years ago, does not seem to have come in sight of a possibly successful conclusion. The truth is that the only radical exception in divorce legislation is that of the State of New York, which makes adultery the only cause for a dissolution of marriage.

With the exception of South Carolina, which has no divorce law, the rest of the Union makes willful desertion a sufficient cause, with a difference between the States and Territories as to its required period, viz: from six months in Arizona to one year in seventeen States, two years in twelve, three years in eleven, and five years in three. The uniformity desired by the divorce reformers, therefore, can be

obtained only by the abandonment of the common policy of the rest of the States and a change in their legislation to agree with that of New York, or by New York's relaxing its divorce law.

Now, willful desertion was recognized by Protestantism as a sufficient cause when it rejected the sacramental character of marriage at the time of the Reformation, and in Germany the causes have been multiplied to an extent not accorded by our States which are fast in their divorce laws. Willful desertion, deemed sufficient ground in our colonial period, is still the rule in American legislation. It is contended that practically abandonment breaks up the family no less than adultery, that cruelty, drunkenness and the like destroy the moral obligation of marriage and defeat its purpose. When marriage is treated as a purely civil contract it is inevitable that other offenses than adultery should be made grounds for its dissolution, and consequently it seems improbable that the rest of the Union would yield to New York.

Churches, however, can make laws for the consciences of their members which guard more strictly the sanctity of marriage, and they can impose penalties for infractions of their rules. This is what the Roman Catholic Church does in refusing to tolerate divorce for any cause. The Episcopal Church forbids divorce for any cause except adultery and remarriage to any except the innocent party, and its clergymen cannot officiate at such marriages. Actually, however, as the experience of the society in New York in which Episcopalians are dominant proves, its canon on the subject is violated frequently by its communicants both in getting divorces and in marrying again after them; and they thus defy the law of their Church without incurring social disapproval. As these new marriages are usually solemnized by ministers they receive religious approval also. Very many purely civil marriages are contracted before Mayors, Justices and other civil officers, it is true, but the parties to them are generally from foreign countries where such a marriage is necessary, even if thereafter a religious ceremony is to occur.

Before the religious denominations can bring any effectual influence to secure uniformity in divorce legislation, it is evident that they must come to some agreement among themselves as to their requirements and as to the practice of their ministers, for at present, as we have said, people legally divorced for any cause have no difficulty in getting ministers to recognize their divorces and marry them to new mates. The woman recently divorced for adultery in New York had only to pass over into Connecticut to find a minister willing to marry her to another man on the very day the decree against her was granted by the New York court; and except for her social consequence her case was not remarkable.

In the religious community there is no more harmony as to this matter of divorce than in the legislation of the States. A large part of it adheres conscientiously to the opinion and doctrine that the cause of willful desertion, at least, is Scripturally defensible. Moreover, divorce for a cause legal anywhere receives both religious sanction and the approval of fashionable society.

It is a very difficult question.

Senator Davis on the Philippines.

In a speech at St. Paul last week the Hon. CUSHMAN K. DAVIS set forth some of the interests of peace and order, and hence, while the proposed new post at Pyramid Harbor has been given up, the posts at Dyas and Skagway will be continued.

Joe Wheeler in Boston.

On Memorial Day Gen. JOE WHEELER will deliver the address before Edward W. Kinsley Post, G. A. R., in the Boston Theatre. This is the first that took charge of the funeral services of a Confederate soldier last winter.

Several cities tried to get this admirable old-youth Confederate-Federal Unionist to make a speech on Memorial Day. He is a representative American citizen and soldier and popular with everybody except the Federalists.

It is Boston's good fortune that he has consented to go there. He will find a most cordial and significant welcome. The Boston people are sick of the racket of the anti-imperialist guinea fowl, most of them not Boston-bred. It is an affliction which Massachusetts has to bear that there are a number of persons in it who are loudly disloyal at present. Most of them—and they are few at most—cultivate a taste for singularity of opinion with the consequent advertising privileges. Some of them would have one side of their heads rather than go unnoted. All of them have a weakness for giving advice to the country on all subjects. Ordinarily they amuse their fellow citizens. Of late they have carried the show too far. Boston and Massachusetts are weary of them and disgusted with their pretensions.

Gen. JOE WHEELER's visit will be a relief to the Bostonians, and an opportunity to show their patriotism. They feel that the screams of the violent war during a few months past have given the city and State an undesired bad reputation.

The Democrats of the Second Maine Congress district are calling to Col. DYAN and the Hon. GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS to come and help them. The Bimetallic League of Auburn has resolved to give a "silver rally" at the Lewiston fair grounds June 17. NELSON DINGEL's successor is to be chosen June 19. The Bimetallic League is justified in appealing to Col. DYAN and Mr. WILLIAMS. Whenever the Democratic vote is not considered to be small enough, the importation of these orators, or of either of them, will be found useful.

Plans for a jurors' hotel have been submitted recently to the building committee of the Cook County Board of Commissioners in Chicago. The proposition, seriously prepared, is for an establishment designed to do away with many of the existing causes for complaint in the treatment of jurors. These servants of justice are practically incarcerated overnight in many cases where there is a disagreement, for a trial which is a trial and is frequently subjected to much hardship and annoyance from which no visible benefit is derivable. Large expenses, too, are incurred for the meals furnished to jurors. A force of court officers is required to watch them and protect them from the attentions or intrusions of interested persons.

The proposed Chicago Jurors' Hotel is to have a dormitory with accommodations for twelve guests, an office for the deputy sheriff, a dining-room, a smoking-room, and, as appropriate, a bar. The hotel, if established, is to be connected with the jail by a bridge resembling the New York "Bridge of Sighs" which now connects the City Prison

with the Criminal Court Building. Jurors, when directed to retire for deliberation, or during court recesses, can retire and deliberate under conditions more favorable, it is claimed, to a just, dispassionate and harmonious verdict than in the case at present.

The idea is a novel one and may be found worthy of careful consideration elsewhere than in Chicago.

TINPLATE.

Present State of a Joke Made by President Cleveland in 1895.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—During the discussion of the McKinley tariff bill in 1890, Thomas L. Bunting, then a Representative in Congress from Erie county, N. Y., made a vigorous fight against the proposed duty of 2½ cents a pound on tin and tin plate. These articles of general consumption were produced almost exclusively in Wales, and in the counties of England adjoining Wales. Mr. Bunting, a packer of canned goods at Hamburg, N. Y., and he said that the protective duty would consume of canned goods to pay an additional cent on every can of fruits, vegetables or meats that it contained. The House, nevertheless, placed a duty on tinplate and the Senate acquiesced in that action.

In 1893 a party of British journalists, headed by Sir William Long of Sheffield, visited this country. In the party were Lascelles Carr, editor of the Cardiff Mail, Sir Morgan Morgan and others. During their visit to Washington they called on President Cleveland. When he discovered that most of them were from Wales he facetiously remarked:

"I suppose, gentlemen, that you have come to the United States to try to discover those mythical tinplate men which were to have been established under the Tariff bill adopted by the last Republican Congress."

The President and his visitors, who were naturally in sympathy with him in this instance, regarded the remark of Mr. Cleveland as a thoroughly brilliant joke, and they stayed in the White House as long as they stayed in Washington.

When Lascelles Carr returned to his own country he published a little book in which he expressed his astonishment at the prosperity which he found everywhere in American manufacturing towns. He was particularly surprised that the mechanics of Youngstown, O., were able to own their houses in fee simple and to furnish them with draperies and carpets and even musical instruments, such as pianos, which were far beyond the reach of the tinplate men. He stated in this little volume that he was astounded at the evidences of the overthrow of the first principles of political economy, but he admitted that the prosperity existed, notwithstanding his own theoretical opinions that a protective policy was inimical to the interests of the workingman.

It is now nearly eight years since the duty on tinplate went into effect and the results of those eight years of American energy and enterprise, backed by the American protective policy, are surprising alike to the advocates of the opponents of that protective policy. In the first six months of the industry, from July 1 to Dec. 31, 1891, the total production of tin and tin plate, the latter being used almost exclusively for roofing purposes, was 2,230,743 pounds. The first full year of the manufacture of tin-covered plate in this country was in 1892, the production of that year being 4,200,000 pounds. In 1893 the production was nearly tripled in volume, reaching 123,600,000 pounds. From that time there has been a steady increase until in the year 1898 the mills of the United States produced 732,290,000 pounds of tin plate. The total product in the seven and a half years, up to the 31st of December, was 2,235,590,929 pounds of tin and tin plate.

Instead of increasing the cost of canned goods to the consumer, the duty on tinplate has had a contrary effect. Tin cans for packing foodstuffs are now sold at 25 per cent less, lower than in 1891, and instead of depending upon the Welsh product the packers are enabled to secure every pound of tin that they need right from the mills of the United States. In other words, the tariff act of 1890 has absolutely established a new industry, giving employment to thousands of skilled workmen, who, like the men of Youngstown, who created so profound an impression in the mind of Mr. Lascelles Carr and his associates, are able to possess their own homes, to fit them up as to British workmen can, and to supply their families with better food than the British workman can. And this has all been done through the Tariff act of 1890, commonly known as the McKinley bill.

Not only has the price of tinplate been reduced 25 per cent, but a similar reduction has been made in the cost of roofing tin, so that the builder as well as the packer is able to reduce his prices for roofing to the extent of 25 per cent, below the figures of nine years ago.

LOST TO THE WORLD FOR 28 YEARS.

Alexander Hall Spends Time in State Asylums, Utterly Forgotten by Everybody.

ROCHESTER, May 20.—Had the grave closed over Alexander S. Hall he would not have been more completely lost to the world than he has been for twenty-eight years. He is now well advanced in years and it is not times that his reason deserts him. In 1871 he was admitted to the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica from his home in Steuben county, and in 1874 was transferred to the Willard State Hospital. The authorities had often noticed his peculiar habits, but as he made no trouble and as nobody seemed to care for him, he lived his life away in the institution. The management changed, new laws were enacted by which, in 1880, the patient became a State instead of a county charge, but his condition did not change. Evidently the outside world had lost track of him. No relatives or friends came to see him and he spoke of no one. The only thing that could come to alter his condition was death. In 1897 it was found necessary to use his name in connection with court proceedings, and some idea of the utter lack of memory of him was gained when it was stated as a positive fact that he had been obliged to substitute a fictitious name in place of his own, the name having been completely forgotten and it being believed that he was long since dead.

A number of years ago Martin Smith, a wealthy resident of Tarrytown, died, leaving a large property to his wife, with the understanding that it should be distributed to the children of his first wife on each anniversary of her death. In 1887 it became necessary to institute an action to discover the shares belong to the children of Mr. Smith, and not long after then were the facts discovered. Hall was the grandson of Mr. Smith, and to him was due a share of Smith's valuable property, which had become considerably depleted, but there still remained about \$1,000 which belonged to him. Application was made to Justice Hall, which was made by Attorney Samuel S. Partridge, who had been a member of the New York Bar, and a committee of Mr. Hall, so that the money could be paid to him. Justice Partridge granted the order.

"The case is a remarkable one," said Attorney Partridge in describing the facts to the writer. "It is a case which will be utterly forgotten by everybody. His wife died away from him, he was never informed of it, and he never saw his money. So far as we know, he never saw the money, and he never saw the money during all the years."

NO TRASON WANTED.

Whether from Sambo Bowles or Edward Atkinson.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—I send you with this copy of a letter written by a North Adams man to a Boston house which had favored it with a copy of one of Atkinson's tracts. A. G. M. PITTSFIELD, May 20.

GENTLEMEN: We return to you herewith a circular which we received in your envelope this morning. We do not know what your object in sending it to us. We certainly have no sympathy with the rotter of superannuated cranks and imbeciles in Boston who call themselves anti-imperialists. We do not care to have of our literature. We have always been in the habit of assisting the United States when at war with a foreign nation, and we have no objection to our country being so assisted. Massachusetts has been disgraced during the last year by some of her own people. We wish to take no part in it and do not want any of their literature, whether it be from Sambo Bowles or Edward Atkinson. Yours truly, A. G. M.

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THE SOUTHERN LYNCHING.

The Negroes of the South and the Negroes of Jamaica.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: A letter in your issue today from Alabama, signed A. W. C., after making a comparison of the negroes of the Southern States with those of the island of Jamaica, asks: "Will some of the controversialists on this bitter and embittering topic set forth reasons for this wide difference of condition and temperament between the negro population of Georgia and that of Jamaica in their relations to the white neighbors and vice versa?" The question can be answered very simply by saying the situation in these two places is entirely different.

The history of Jamaica shows that there, too, the "race question" has at times agitated the public mind most severely. When, after years of agitation, the British abolitionists succeeded in having the slaves of the British West Indies freed, Jamaica was left in a condition very similar to that of our Southern States directly after the civil war. The island negro population, suddenly freed from the lowest status of society to absolute equality (politically) with their white neighbors, immediately attempted to take and keep all the power they could get. The whites, who had possessed all the power, and still had all the education of the island, naturally sought to retain their power. Terrific bloodshed followed, and the situation was white everywhere, and the destruction was only put down after much blood had been shed. The negroes caught and executed.

The colonial Government, seeing the utter impossibility of continuing such a self-governing country, did the hitherto unheard-of thing of turning the home Government to take away its charter and reduce the island to the rank of a "Crown colony," and in 1865 this was done. The island was then placed under the Colonial Office of England. The Governor is now appointed by the Crown, and the executive consists of fourteen elected members, five "ex-officio" members, and a certain number of members appointed by the Governor. He can still appoint the full number allowed by law, but he is not allowed to appoint members, control legislation. He has also control of all appointments, and not being dependent on the House of Representatives, the island is naturally not compelled to make any appointment for any political reasons whatever.

The Government being thus entirely removed from the island, the negroes, who are the white population, are free to do as they please. The fact that the negroes so greatly outnumber the whites is perhaps the best reason for the absence of crime, as the negroes are not allowed to be armed, and are mostly in the towns; such crime as is committed in towns, and the presence of large numbers of negroes, is not a serious matter. The white population in Jamaica. In the country districts the few whites are usually rich landowners, and the large majority of the negroes are servants and plantation hands, they have no large estates and are not in a position to import from the East Indies, the negroes do not do anything for others and little for themselves.

While the small farmer class do not exist in Jamaica, and it is on the women of this class that the terrible crimes are usually committed, in Jamaica the negroes are not allowed to be armed, and are mostly in the towns; such crime as is committed in towns, and the presence of large numbers of negroes, is not a serious matter. The white population in Jamaica. In the country districts the few whites are usually rich landowners, and the large majority of the negroes are servants and plantation hands, they have no large estates and are not in a position to import from the East Indies, the negroes do not do anything for others and little for themselves.

It is now nearly eight years since the duty on tinplate went into effect and the results of those eight years of American energy and enterprise, backed by the American protective policy, are surprising alike to the advocates of the opponents of that protective policy.

In the first six months of the industry, from July 1 to Dec. 31, 1891, the total production of tin and tin plate, the latter being used almost exclusively for roofing purposes, was 2,230,743 pounds. The first full year of the manufacture of tin-covered plate in this country was in 1892, the production of that year being 4,200,000 pounds. In 1893 the production was nearly tripled in volume, reaching 123,600,000 pounds. From that time there has been a steady increase until in the year 1898 the mills of the United States produced 732,290,000 pounds of tin plate. The total product in the seven and a half years, up to the 31st of December, was 2,235,590,929 pounds of tin and tin plate.

Instead of increasing the cost of canned goods to the consumer, the duty on tinplate has had a contrary effect. Tin cans for packing foodstuffs are now sold at 25 per cent less, lower than in 1891, and instead of depending upon the Welsh product the packers are enabled to secure every pound of tin that they need right from the mills of the United States. In other words, the tariff act of 1890 has absolutely established a new industry, giving employment to thousands of skilled workmen, who, like the men of Youngstown, who created so profound an impression in the mind of Mr. Lascelles Carr and his associates, are able to possess their own homes, to fit them up as to British workmen can, and to supply their families with better food than the British workman can. And this has all been done through the Tariff act of 1890, commonly known as the McKinley bill.

Not only has the price of tinplate been reduced 25 per cent, but a similar reduction has been made in the cost of roofing tin, so that the builder as well as the packer is able to reduce his prices for roofing to the extent of 25 per cent, below the figures of nine years ago.

LOST TO THE WORLD FOR 28 YEARS.

Alexander Hall Spends Time in State Asylums, Utterly Forgotten by Everybody.

ROCHESTER, May 20.—Had the grave closed over Alexander S. Hall he would not have been more completely lost to the world than he has been for twenty-eight years. He is now well advanced in years and it is not times that his reason deserts him. In 1871 he was admitted to the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica from his home in Steuben county, and in 1874 was transferred to the Willard State Hospital. The authorities had often noticed his peculiar habits, but as he made no trouble and as nobody seemed to care for him, he lived his life away in the institution. The management changed, new laws were enacted by which, in 1880, the patient became a State instead of a county charge, but his condition did not change. Evidently the outside world had lost track of him. No relatives or friends came to see him and he spoke of no one. The only thing that could come to alter his condition was death. In 1897 it was found necessary to use his name in connection with court proceedings, and some idea of the utter lack of memory of him was gained when it was stated as a positive fact that he had been obliged to substitute a fictitious name in place of his own, the name having been completely forgotten and it being believed that he was long since dead.

A number of years ago Martin Smith, a wealthy resident of Tarrytown, died, leaving a large property to his wife, with the understanding that it should be distributed to the children of his first wife on each anniversary of her death. In 1887 it became necessary to institute an action to discover the shares belong to the children of Mr. Smith, and not long after then were the facts discovered. Hall was the grandson of Mr. Smith, and to him was due a share of Smith's valuable property, which had become considerably depleted, but there still remained about \$1,000 which belonged to him. Application was made to Justice Hall, which was made by Attorney Samuel S. Partridge, who had been a member of the New York Bar, and a committee of Mr. Hall, so that the money could be paid to him. Justice Partridge granted the order.

"The case is a remarkable one," said Attorney Partridge in describing the facts to the writer. "It is a case which will be utterly forgotten by everybody. His wife died away from him, he was never informed of it, and he never saw his money. So far as we know, he never saw the